

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of April 2, 2013 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell, Kathleen Paterson, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Ed Hall, Shep Stearns.

2. Minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting were approved.

Old Business

3. *Mansfield Tomorrow Agricultural Strategy* The Agriculture Focus Group will be appointed by PZC. Members of the Agriculture Committee are invited to be members of this group. A joint Agriculture and Economic Development Focus Groups meeting on April 30 will look at recommendations from consultants at Yellow Wood and provide feedback. The committee discussed ways to provide an opportunity for Mansfield farmers to comment on the Yellow Wood recommendations. The committee discussed additional requests for research by Yellow Wood relevant to specific Mansfield factors.

4. *Farmland leasing* The subcommittee will review the lease applications and report their recommendations to the full committee at the June 4 meeting.

New Business

5. *Invitation to New Farmers* The committee discussed way to welcome new farmers in town.

6. *Preservation of State Owned Farmland* Jennifer will contact Working Lands Alliance about a state initiative to preserve these lands.

7. *Regional Agriculture Network* Jennifer reported that Andy Meek of the Sterling Agriculture Commission wants to start periodic regional meetings for farmers and agriculture commissions to share ideas and issues.

8. *Farmland Restoration* The committee discussed restoring overgrown Town land so it can be put into agricultural production.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05. The next regular meeting is on May 7.